



*A decade of sowing  
the seeds of justice.*

January 27, 2007

Senator Brad Ashford  
Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Room 1103, State Capitol  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Chairman Ashford and members of the Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, I am writing to express our support for LB 38. Nebraska Appleseed is a non-profit, non-partisan law project that works to address systemic issues facing low-income Nebraskans and remove obstacles to self-sufficiency. In 2003, Nebraska Appleseed established its Child Welfare Accountability Project which seeks to protect the legal rights of children in foster care and to work for lasting and meaningful reform of the system.

At Nebraska Appleseed, we have repeatedly heard from attorneys, biological parents, and foster parents alike that the system moves too slow, that there is a lack of permanency for children, and that we need to get appropriate services into place for families earlier in the process. Adding a new juvenile judge in Lancaster County, the second most populated county in the state, would allow cases to move through the system at a faster rate and would therefore have a significant impact on the responsiveness of our court system to a large number of children in Nebraska.

This bill is essential to properly providing for our youth and children in a timely and efficient manner. We thank Senator Hudkins for introducing this legislation and urge the committee to advance LB 38.

Sincerely,

Sarah Helvey  
Staff Attorney  
Child Welfare System Accountability Project

CORE VALUES | COMMON GROUND | EQUAL JUSTICE

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*Affiliated with the Appleseed Foundation of Washington, DC*